Government agencies do not procure paddy. However, levy rice is being procured in accordance with the Levy Control order issued by the State Government.

(b) The position in respect of Orissa is as under:—

	Sanctioned Strength	Staff in Position
Category-I	23	17
Category-II	254	170
Category-III	1142	713
Category-IV	532	559
TOTAL	1951	1459

(c) As on 31.12.2000, the total number of FCI godowns in Orissa is 53, with a total storage capacity of 4.98 Lakh tonnes (owned and hired). However, FCI owned godowns are 22, with a total storage capacity of 2.68 lakh tonnes.

Number of Hindi Personnel

146. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of CONSUMBER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of posts of Hindi Translators/Hindi Officers/ Assistants created in his Ministry and in allied PSUs/attached and subordinate offices for propagation of Hindi as official language and encouragement of Hindi correspondence;

(b) the number of such posts lying vacant and since when; and

(c) the reasons therefore and the steps taken to fill up such posts urgently?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Improvement in PDS

†147. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to take necessary measures to improve public distribution system; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) and (b) The Public Distribution System (PDS) evolved as a system of management of scarcity and for distribution of foodgrains at affordable prices. Over the years, it has become an important part of Government's policy for management of food economy in the country. PDS is supplemental in nature and does not make available the entire requirement of any commodities to a household or section of the society. It is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and State Governments. The Central Government is responsible for procurement, storage and transportation of PDS commodities up to the central godowns and making them available to the State Governments. The responsibility for distribution to the consumers through Fair Price Shops (FPSs) and administration of PDS rests with State Governments/UT Administration. In order to efficiently reach the essential commodities under Public Distribution System to the consumers in a transparent and accountable manner a Model Citizens' Charter for Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) has also been drawn up and circulated to States/UTs for

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.